

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5004

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJECT: TRANSGABON RAILROAD

1. DIRECTOR OF OCTA VION SAID THERE WAS STRONG POSSIBILITY
A NUMBER OF COMPANIES FROM COUNTRIES NOT CONTRIBUTING
FINANCING TO RAILROAD WOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN CONTRACTS FOR
SALE OF VARIOUS ITEMS (E.G., RAILS, LOCOMOTIVES)
AND THAT SUCH OFFERS MIGHT EVEN BE ACCOMPANIED BY
ADVANTAGEOUS FINANCING PROPOSALS FOR ITEMS INVOLVED.

2. VION SAID THA HE PERSONALLY CONSIDERED THAT THIS
WOULD BE UNFAIR TO DONOR COUNTRIES WHO CONTRIBUTING AID
TO FIRST SECTION OF RAILROAD AND THAT SUCH OFFERS SHOULD
BE REFUSED UNLESS COUNTRY MAKING SUCH OFFER
ALSO WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE AID FOR MAIN CONSTRUCTION
PORTION OF RAILROAD (I.E., LOT NO 3) EVEN THOUGH COUNTRY
CONCERNED WOULD NOT GET CONTRACT FOR THIS LOT (AS
SUBMISSION FOR PRE-SELECTION CLOSED OCTOBER 31).

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3. VION POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT IF THESE PROPOSALS

FROM NON-DONOR COUNTRIES WERE FINANCIALLY ATTRACTIVE
IT WOULD BE TEMPTING FOR GOG TO ACCEPT THEM AND HE,
VION, COULD HARDLY OPPOSE THEM DESPITE HIS PERSONAL
VIEWS IN MATTER. HE FELT THEREFORE THAT IT WAS UP TO
DONOR COUNTRIES AT NOVEMBER 20 MEETING TO INSIST THAT SUCH
OFFERS FROM NON-DONORS NOT BE ALLOWED.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE VION HAS RAISED IMPORTANT
POINT AND THAT IT CERTAINLY TO ADVANTAGE OF ALL DONOR
COUNTRIES (INCLUDING U.S.) THAT BIDS FOR OTHER LOTS BE
ACCEPTED ONLY FROM DONOR COUNTRIES SINCE THIS WILL REDUCE
THE COMPETITION. SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT, IF
DEPARTMENT CONCUR, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE(S) AT NOVEMBER 20
MEETING BE PREPARED TO MAKE THIS POINT STRONGLY, (HOPEFULLY
IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER DONORS).

5. IN REPLY TO MY QUERY CONCERNING STATUS OF OTHER
POTENTIAL DONORS, VION SAID THAT BRAZIL, SPAIN AND ALGERIA
HAD INDICATED INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE BUT THAT NOTHING
SPECIFIC YET DECIDED. HE SAID CANADIAN AMBASSADOR HAD
JUST INFORMED GOG THAT CANADA PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO
RAIROAD BUT IN AMOUNT OF DOLS 15 MILLION ON ROUGHLY
EXIM TERMS RATHER THAN ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED
DOLS 5 MILLION THIRTY YEARS SOFT LOANS.
MCKESSON

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